



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
Tuesday, July 9th, 2013

Colwood Municipal Hall

Present: Ken Morgan, Judith Cullington, Jason Nault, Judy Nault, Joe Richardson, Beth Mitchell, Sue Dugro, Jody Watson, Natalie Bandringa

Guest: Helen Martin

DECISIONS				
1	Explore with Cindy and Parks Canada potential links to 2014 events			
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Next Meeting: October 8th, 2013 at Colwood Municipal Hall				
ACTIONS			ACTION BY	DUE
1	ELSI, host 1-2 Speakers Series in 2013 - Natalie speak with Beth about contacting Mr. James		Natalie	Fall
2	Colwood working with both the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations to settle to define what exactly Colwood committed to during discussions when original disturbance occurred (November 2003) and what is required now to settle matters and erect the mural and interpretive sign on site		Iain	ASAP
3	Dune Restoration - post David Blondon's report on ELSI website - work with Camoson, Colwood Parks and ELSI volunteers to plan planting event Fall 2013		Natalie	Sept
4	Draft Public consultation for Water Quality Objectives		Natalie/Jody	Fall
5	Bring CRD Harbour Survey results back to ELSI's October 2013 meeting		Natalie/Jody	Oct.
6	Look into potential funding sources for a SARA and First Nations event in 2014		Ken	
7	Dogs on Leash Outreach - consider editing suggestions, send final draft to Colwood staff for their own use > suggested ideas: stickers on lagoon/peninsula garbage cans, handouts, webpage -Re-engage Citizen canine, ask if they would put up new flyer on their website		Natalie	ASAP

INFORMATION

Approval of Agenda

1. Interpretive signs and mural

Colwood continues to work with Songhees and Esquimalt Nations to build relationships to work towards having the mural and the interpretive sign placed at the lagoon. The process is First Nation driven. Colwood continues to work with Linda Ross as a consultant to work directly with both Nations on Colwood's behalf. Chief Ron Sam is the new Chief at Songhees and is looking forward to getting the mural and sign up. Colwood continues to work with the Esquimalt Chief Thompson.

2. CRD Harbours and Watershed

A. CRD Harbours Survey

- Paper and on-line survey is up and running from July 1st to mid-Sept.
- Lengthy survey to gather information on peoples' uses, values, concerns and vision of Victoria Harbour, Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet, Esquimalt Harbour and Esquimalt Lagoon
- Can be done as a whole or pick a harbor area to complete and written comments
- This information will be utilized for drafting a 50- year plan for the harbour areas
- Fall'13-Winter'14 will be focusing on bring survey results to public consultation for checking in and seeking specific information about watersheds

B. Water Quality Objectives (WQO) – sampling results, consultation + drafting

- Flow monitor on Colwood Creek is doing well, at the end of August 2013 will have one complete year of flow monitoring. Colwood Cr. has proven a healthier creek then the urban creek such as Cecilia Creek where CRD staff have had to often clean the probes (PH, temperature, turbidity)
- CRD staff are completing year 2 the dry (summer'13) and wet (fall'13) 5:30 sampling in the creeks
- All creeks have indicated high levels of nutrients, old model of CRD testing did not include nutrient testing
- The Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) sampling methodology and analysis for benthic invertebrate will also be completed this late summer/early fall
- The province is looking at potentially creating objectives for the harbours and objectives for the creeks

C. Integrated Watershed Management Program (IWMP)

- replacing new name for CRD's Stormwater and Harbours Program (SHWP)
- currently focusing on the core area municipalities, working through an IWM Municipal group
- 5 Regional Districts are talking about how we can monitor watershed health through a series of meetings and information sharing sessions (Fall 2013-June 2014)

D. Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) Blue Water Grant

- CRD's IWMP received a grant for \$67,000 to create and launch a campaign to improve urban watersheds
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- focuses: 1) residents > rain water harvesting; 2) businesses > source control (videos); 3) youth watershed warden > education
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3. **MBS & Habitat Protection Outreach Campaign**

- Natalie has been in contact with MBS Enforcement Officer, they are open to working with Colwood Bylaw to do a blitz, however have other pressing priorities.
 - Committee reviewed and gave feedback on draft flyer, Natalie will complete and provide to Colwood
 - Many dog walkers are not aware of off leash area, Colwood needs to post a permanent sign near bathrooms indicating off leash area
 - Re-engage Citizen canine, ask if they would put up new flyer on their website
 - New flyers can also be made as stickers to be placed on all garbage cans on the peninsula
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4. **Outreach**

Website & Materials

- CRD is currently redoing the CRD website and will also be re-doing ELSI website, it will mostly be the same in content, remain independent, keep same ELSI logo, but will also have CRD branding
- ELSI Annual Report (year) will now be called ELSI Update (year) and will also have the CRD branding

Events 2013-14

- Successful annual July 1st ELSI outreach and May 24th Off the Grid Festival at Fort Rodd Hill
 - Potentially working with Angus Stewart to have the watershed model at the lagoon/peninsula this summer on a busy weekend
 - August 2014 > Cindy Moyer presented the idea to team up with the First Nations to draw focus on to the Species at Risk and educate the public – part of the focus could be the Coburg Peninsula and Esquimalt Lagoon. Ken will send email with potential funding idea
 - Fort Rodd Hill will be hosting events honouring:
 - August 1st, 2014 > centennial WW1
 - September 2014 > 70th anniversary of the start of WW2
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5. **Dune Monitoring**

- Dave Blondon was not able to present his paper, Natalie made paper copies available to those that wanted and will put on-line
 - Sue Dugaro spoke about the results indicated in the paper
 - 6 years of Camosun Monitoring with 360 students
 - no real significant difference between the test plot (planted) and the controlled plot (not planted)
 - both plots were to have a natural fence, but it did not grow and thus did not keep people out
 - dune grass and burweed are doing well
 - American Sea Rocket and, Beach Pea are not doing so well (perhaps because they are the forshore/dune front species and are experiencing the most impact of waves)
 - no increase in non-native species
 - Camosun will continue to monitor
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- students and volunteers have collected dune grass seeds and have been propagating them at Camosun and Essencia, ready to plant Fall 2013 (700 plants)
 - Need to plan planting event this fall with Camosun, ELSI and Colwood Parks staff

7. Partner Updates

Jason – concerned with number of dogs off leash

Parks Canada - pleased with number of visitors at events and opening of camp/cabins

- award winning "Garry Oak Meadow" open for walking through
- planning on school based field trips starting September 2013, French festival October 2013 and in 2014 events honouring WW1 and WW2

Colwood – new municipal website launched with new logo, looking for feedback on website

- Solar Colwood (solar power grant) is expanding and will be available CRD wide through the CRD

Joe and Beth – continue with community fish monitoring, found Coho in lower reaches Bee Cr for the first time in a number of years. Still monitoring Seleck Creek, finding Cut Throat

Adjourned 4:00 pm

Followed by the annual ELSI Volunteer Appreciation BBQ

Parks Canada hosted tour of new tent/cabins available for rent to public